minal cases pending before the Supreme Court of India as on date;

(b) how many among them are more than three years and five years old;

(c) how many vacancies are there in the Supreme Court at present along with the date of each such vacancy;

(d) how many vacancies were filled up during the last three years along dates; and

(e) what steps have been taken to dispose of the old cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The position has been indicated in the Statement attached herewith. (*See below*).

(e) The Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India keeps reviewing the pendency of the matters of various categories and directs the formation of Constitution Bench of and on having regard to the importance and urgency of a particular matter and the availability of judges for constituting the Constitution Bench. Further, the matters involving the same or similar question of law are grouped together and these are listed together so that all of them could be heard and disposed of at a time.

Satement

(c) As on 1.7.1987, there were 12 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court. These are lying vacant from:

1. 15.6.1986
2. 21.12.1986
3. 19.6.1987
4. 1.7.1987

5 to 12. These arose on 9-5-1986 when the authorised strength of the Supreme Court was raised from 18 to 26 Judges.

(d) From 1.6.1984 till date,, 8 appointments were made in the Supreme Court on:—

1. 25.6.1984
2. 29.10.1985
3. 29.10.1985
4. 10.3.1986
5. 10.3.1986
6. 10.3.1986
7. 1.5.1987
8. 1.5.1987

Indian Express newspapers private limited

45. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question 1498 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the inspections have since been completed; and

(b) if so, what action Government were taken in regard to the misuse of funds and other malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The inspections of all the Companies belonging to Indian Express group of Companies ordered under section 209-A of the Companies Act, 1956 have not been completed as yet.

Import of truck and bus tyers

46. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of truck and bus tyres in the country at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to import truck and bus tyres to meet the requirements of private transporters;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) from which countries, the tyres are to be imported and by what time these will be made available; and

(f) what is the quantum of foreign exchange made available for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) There have been complaints that there is a shortage in the market for truck and bus tyres of certain specifications. According to the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, these temporary shortages were due to the closure of MRF factory at Goa from October 1986 to April 1987 and the shortfalls in production in some other tyre factories on account of labour problems.

(c) Government is carefully watching the situation and may consider import of tyres if the need arises.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Cement production

47. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement production in the country is adequate to meet the entire domestic requirement; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to export cement in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some Cement Companies are exploring the possibilities of exporting cement to neighbouring countries.

White Papers on Public Sector Enterprises

48. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft white paper on Public Sector enterprises in order to improve their performance has been prepared;

(b) if so, what measures have been suggested therein and whether Government propose to revamp the losing Public Sector units; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to revamp the losing public sector units and by when this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The White Paper on Public Sector has not yet been prepared.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strike in Public Sector enterprises

49. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers in some public sector enterprises have been on strike for the last several months;

(b) if so, what are the names of such public sector enterprises;

(c) what are the causes leading to the strikes in these public sector enterprises; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to streamline the functioning of the Public Sector Enterprises in order to stop the recurrence of strikes there?